

Fatal Factors: Speed



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The Problem

- In about a third of all the wrecks that kill someone, at least one of the drivers was speeding.
- About 1,000 fatalities resulted from speeding-related motor vehicle traffic crashes every month.



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The Problem, cont.

- Speeding makes it harder for you to steer safely around curves or objects in the road. The faster you are going, the longer it will take you to stop. Speed increases the distance you car or truck travels while you try to react to a hazard or problem.
- Higher crash speeds also mean that your seatbelt and air bags are less effective, and that guardrails, barriers, and impact attenuators won't offer as much protection.



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Double click in black box to run video

Click to advance presentation

Data

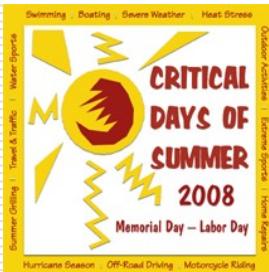
- In speed-related fatal crashes, about 40 percent occurred while the driver was going around a curve. In the fatal crashes where the driver wasn't speeding, less than 20 percent occurred on a curve.
- About 40 percent of drivers who were drunk (BAC = 0.08 or higher) were also speeding, compared to just 14 percent for sober drivers.



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Data, cont.

- Saturdays have the highest number of speeding-related fatal crashes, followed by Sundays and Fridays.
- Male drivers are more likely to be involved in speeding-related fatal crashes than female drivers among drivers of all ages.
- The relative proportion of speeding drivers decreases with increased driver age.



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Data, cont.

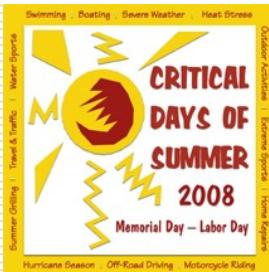
- Saturdays have the highest number of speeding-related fatal crashes, followed by Sundays and Fridays.
- Speed often goes unreported in crashes because drivers don't often admit they were speeding, especially if they've admitted they were tired as well.



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Speed: Fatal Events

- Nov '07, a 20 yr old E-2 lost control of his car, crashed into a tree and died. He was traveling 85 mph in a 45 zone.
- Oct '07, a 20 yr old E-4 lost control of his motorcycle on a curve and struck a sign post. Speed was estimated at 65-70, the posted speed limit was 35 mph.
- Oct '07, E-5 riding motorcycle on base with wife on back of bike. Entered turn too fast (75-80 mph, in a 45 mph zone). Lost control, crashed into ditch. Both parties died on scene.

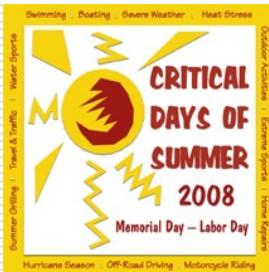


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Another Speeding Hazard: Following Too Close

- Most people seem to drive too fast and too close, but that doesn't make it O.K. Just because they aren't giving themselves enough time to react doesn't mean you shouldn't.

- All kinds of things can happen in traffic. The car in front of you can swerve. The driver in front of them can slam on his or her brakes, and then they will, and then you'll have to. And when you run into the guy in front of you, no matter what he did, guess what: It's your fault, and you'll be ticketed.



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The 3-Second Rule

- During daytime, in good weather, and with light traffic, the “3-Second Rule” will give you enough space to avoid wrecks. Pick out an upcoming billboard, traffic sign or overpass. When the car in front of you passes it, slowly start counting "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." If you get there before you're done counting, then back off the car in front of you—you're following too closely.



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Bad Weather, Heavy Traffic, or at Night

- In these situations, three seconds aren't enough. Increase your following distance to five to six seconds (or even more, if it is snowing, pouring rain, or heavy fog). Keep in mind that other things also affect your stopping distance: your brakes and tires, for example, and the condition of the road.



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Don't Tailgate

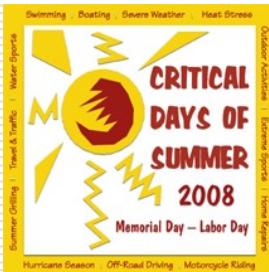
- Like it or not, the guy in front of you is an important factor in your drive. If that person is going under the speed limit for no apparent reason, pass them when you get a chance. Don't crowd them.



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Questions?

- Can I be ticketed if traveling one mph over the posted speed limit?
- If I'm traveling ten mph over the speed limit, but the same speed as all the other cars on the road, can I get ticketed for speeding?
- Can I get a ticket for doing less than the posted speed limit?



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